DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

EVALUATION OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND SAFETY COUNCIL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING COURSE

RESEARCH REPORT NO. 23

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INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of research conducted in an attempt to determine whether or not the Motorcycle Training Course offered by the Newfoundland Safety Council should be legislated as a compulsory requirement in obtaining a motorcycle drivers licence in the Province of Newfoundland.

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METHODOLOGY

Evaluation of the Motorcycle Training Course was made by a comparative review of the statistics on convictions of a total of 990 motorcycle drivers: 493 of this total were used as a control group, randomly chosen from a list of motorcycle driver registrants who had not enrolled in the course, and then compared with 497 motorcycle drivers who had enrolled in the Training Course. The total number of licenced motorcycle drivers in the Province as of December 31, 1982 was 13,584.

RESULTS

	No Course	Passed Course	Failed Course
Motorcycle drivers without convictions	55.2%	85.3%	85.2%
Motorcycle drivers with convictions	44.8%	14.7%	14.8%

There is a 30.1% decrease in convictions after completion of a Motorcycle Training Course. The course has obviously taught the drivers of such vehicles the rules of the road, the knowledge of which is of paramount importance to the driver of a motorcycle.

CONCLUSION

The Newfoundland Safety Council is presently starting to open more centers in which the Motorcycle Training Course will be offered. By the year of 1986 Newfoundland and Labrador will have training centers centrally located in major areas of the province. This will provide an opportunity to many motorcyclists to obtain the Training Course. However, in 1986 there will still be several areas that do not have easy access to a center. But according to statistics from Motor Registration on the number of motorcycle registrants there is a lower percentage of motorcycle drivers in these affected areas. This year there are 1.07% of drivers living at points where there is not a center located. In 1984 there will be .89% and in 1985 .24%.

Overall, the Motorcycle Training Course appeared to improve the driving abilities of motorcyclists. As well, the conviction rate of those drivers who have taken the course, whether they pass or fail, is significantly lower than that of those drivers who have not taken any training course.

Therefore, it is recommended that a passing grade from the Newfoundland Safety Council be a mandatory prerequisite to the obtaining of a motorcycle drivers licence. This course will aid in securing a continuation of decreasing the number of convictions while ensuring an increasing amount of highway safety.

REFERENCES

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